GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:935
ANSWERED ON:24.02.2003
PROMOTION OF MARKETING INFRASTRUCTURE OF AGRICULTURE PRODUCE
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Standing Committee on Agriculture in its Report for the year 1999-2000 has stated that India isWorld`s second largest producer of fruits and vegetables but the overall scenario of food processing is very bleak;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the percentage of fruits and vegetables production which is processed as compared to Thailand, Brazil and Malaysia;

(d) whether the NAFED was required to promote marketing Infrastructure of agricultural produce by formingco-operative development;

(e) if so, whether the NAFED has failed in the discharge of its aims and objectives; and

(f): if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to develop an effective and efficient food processing sector to counter the onslaught of foreign packed food?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) & (b): Although India is the second largest producer of fruits and vegetables in the world the quantityutilized for processing is very low due to a number of factors including preference of the consumers for its consumption in fresh form.

(c): In India, it is estimated that less than two percent of the market arrivals of fruits and vegetables are being processed.

(d): No, Sir. Cooperation being a State subject, the NAFED is not required to promote marketinginfrastructure through cooperatives. However, as an apex organisation of marketing cooperatives in the country, NAFED has endeavoured to promote infrastructure in a limited way to effectively handle agricultural produce for the benefit of the farmers.

(e): No, Sir. NAFED has been instrumental in helping the cooperatives in efficient handling and marketingof agricultural produce by undertaking procurement of various commodities like fruits, vegetables, oilseeds and pulses under the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS).Besides, NAFED has also been involved in procuringhorticultural produce on its own under the NAFED`s commercial programme for domestic market and export. During the year 2001-02, NAFED purchased a total quantity of 31568 tonnes of various horticulture commodities valued at Rs. 22.65 crores.

(f): The Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) is providing financial assistance in the form of grant forsetting up of new food processing units or for expansion/ modernization of existing units. Besides, the MFPI ispromoting Food Processing Industries through infrastructure development, quality assurance and human resource development.